Someone you know

A Publication by Ground Zero

John's Story

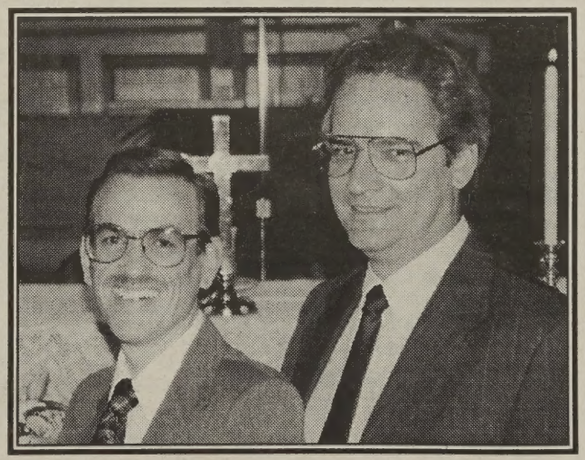
by John Mark Hild

Christmas and the Gay Christian. Does Christmas mean something different being a gay Christian? What direction did I want to go with this question? I needed help, so I asked several other gay and lesbian Christian friends from Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church (PPMCC), which I attend. Most of the people I asked are involved in a praise and worship ministry within the church. What various opinions I received!

Many of my friends said that Christmas was not different to them at all. That Christmas is a time of excitement, a time to share the joy of the season and recognize God's love and reflect the true meaning of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. One dear friend said that it was a time to laugh when we hear "don we now our gay apparel."

One friend said it was time to ponder the birth of God's Son, the Christ and Messiah of the world, a time to see that God unconditionally loves them, for Christ knows what it is like to be banished and persecuted. He has shown, through his life on earth, that the love of God is truly for them. In our own lives as a gay or lesbian person, that acceptance is not always seen by those who view our homosexuality as something wrong. It is so good to know that God accepts me regardless of my sexual orientation.

This is a season to reach out to others, according to another friend. A time to help all people feel accepted, to show the willingness of God to include all people as part of the family of God. It is a time to support those who feel shunned, a time for challenging each person to reach out to all people and brighten their spirits.



John Mark Hild (l) & partner Rod Fleming

Several people brought up the family issue. A lesbian friend said that Christmas is a time to honor her gay and lesbian family. In the past, I have invited single gay and lesbian friends over on Christmas Eve to watch movies, spend the night and then celebrate Christmas Day. Another friend stated that many times a lesbian or gay couple must decide not to spend the holiday together, but to go to each biological family to avoid conflict.

I personally am involved in an area of conflict with my family. My parents are coming up to have Christmas dinner with my partner and me. Great, I can hear some you saying. It's so nice that they respect your relationship. But when you consider that they spent Thanksgiving with my sister and her family while neither my partner nor I were invited (we went the day before and had ham with my parents). We, my parents, my partner and I, agreed that we would work around my sister's prejudice, which started long ago, but climaxed when my partner and I did a television interview on same sex marriage this year. My sister, who feels homosexuality is morally wrong, had her prejudice affirmed when her pastor called her to let her know and express his opposition to the interview.

What is sad is that she had

See John, cont'd on pg. 2

A RABBI'S MESSAGE

by Rabbi Peter Kessler
Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
SHABBAT EVENING
OCTOBER 11, 1996

On a cold October night, very much like this one, about 500 years ago, an Italian navigator by the name of Christopher Columbus sailed into a harbor in the Caribbean. He thought he had found the West Indies. What he found instead was America, which would later become a place where freedom was the cornerstone.

Columbus left Spain a few months earlier with a small flotilla of three ships, and a ramshackle crew that included many people whose lives were so embittered in Spain that they would take a chance on the assumption that life in the new world would be better than it was in Europe. Europe at the end of the 15th century was not an easy place to live, especially if you were a Jew.

This was during the Spanish Inquisition, a time when it was forbidden to be Jewish. Synagogues were burned, and Jews were forbidden to hold jobs. They were forced to wear a sanbenito, a special garment that had the likeness of demons painted on it. Many Jews during the time of the Inquisition were tortured, or killed. Their only recourse was to denounce their Judaism, to convert to Christianity, and become Catholics.

They were faced with a grim decision - convert to Christianity, or die. Imagine yourself as a Jew in the late 1400's. For generations, your family were probably wealthy merchants, well-accepted by the community, and allowed to practice the faith that was a part of your very soul. Suddenly, you are faced with a decision to live your life as a lie, or face death. What do you decide? For many, conversion was the only answer. Jews by the thousands became conversos- people who converted to Christianity and were therefore given the opportunity to live within the populace without the distinguishing marks and dress that identified them as Jews. They would have the same rights as those who were born as Christians, and afforded the opportunity to live.

They would be known, however, as marranos. You have heard the term marrano before, I am sure. It is derived from the Spanish world meaning "swine." We don't use the world marrano today, because of its derogatory connotation. But it was used to describe the conversos by the general population of Spain in the 15th century.

While Columbus was sailing across the ocean in search of the New World, conversos were trying to become accustomed to new identities. It was a very strange set of circumstances. Public education was run by the Catholic church, so the children of the conversos now attended school where they were taught Christian beliefs, rather than the Jewish studies they learned in cheder. When these children returned home, at the end of their school day, their families often continued to practice Judaism in secret - lighting Shabbat candles behind closed doors, reading from the Scripture by candlelight with the shades drawn, reciting the Sh'ma in hushed tones.

The conversos believed strongly in their Jewish heritage, and continued to teach it to their children, even when they knew that if they were discovered, it could mean torture, or death. They pretended to be something they were not, having to lie to their communities in order to save their lives. Can you imagine having to pretend to be something you are not, because being who you were would mean being ostracized from the community, ridiculed, tortured, killed?

This was the fate of the conversos. Called marranos, pigs, forced to pretend to be something they weren't - their only hope for continuing to live as Jews was to follow their hearts in places that were dark, depressing, foreboding, secretive.

Perhaps Christopher Columbus himself was a converso. There are those who believe he was -- that he fled Spain because he was a Jew in fear of his life, looking for a land of freedom where he could be who he was meant to be. Perhaps he was searching for a place where he didn't have to hide his identity, his religion, his beliefs. And even if Christopher Columbus was truly a Christian, there can be little doubt that some of those on his crew were indeed conversos. Why else would anyone want to make the perilous journey from Europe to a place that no one was really sure even existed? Could it be that the crew of the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria believed that falling off the edge of the earth was a fate better than being converted from Judaism, or being tortured or murdered?

A short 55 years ago, in the same continent that sent Christopher

See Rabbi, cont'd on pg. 2

John, cont'd from pg.1

known of my orientation for at least 10 years or so. She got on the phone and called my parents to let them know how she now felt. My parents, who are strict church attendees themselves, have chosen to accept my relationship and know the great divide that has been created by my sister.

It would be wonderful to have a true family Christmas again. Sadly, I don't see this happening any time soon, if at all. How unfair to my father who has a large cancerous tumor near his heart and has been going through chemotherapy and radiation treatments to be forced to decide with whom they will spend the holidays. How unfair to my mother and father to know that they cannot enjoy having all their kids around them during the holidays.

Christmas has always been my favorite time of the year. A special time of gathering with sisters, brother, nieces, nephews, aunts and uncles -- but now times have changed. Does this overshadow the joy and excitement of the season? Yes, somewhat, but not so much when you realize, as the phrase goes, "Jesus is the reason for the Season!!"

When I was in Junior High, I wrote a poem about Christmas. I only remember two verses, now, but I'd like to share it with you:

Christmas is a happy time,
Of joy and full of fun.
The happiness can't be kept inside,
For this is Christmas time.

Christmas is a special time,
Of remembering God's Son,
For this is Christmas time.

So, reflecting on the Christmas season, I must say *Thank-you* to an awesome God who loves and accepts all that I am. That even when people's religion gets in the way of showing love to others, I can, as a gay Christian, strive to bring unity to a world often divided by showing understanding, passion and concern for others, even if they are different and we disagree.

In all the holiday excitement, we need to draw attention to Jesus Christ. We can take our example from John the Baptist who pointed to the Messiah; the Messiah, who was, often as we feel, in the world but not recognized or accepted by the world. May we all do our part to bring "Peace on Earth" and "Good will to ALL."

Rabbi, cont'd from pg.1

Columbus to America, another group of Jews began to suffer the same fate as the Jews of Spain in the 15th century. Forced to wear yellow stars rather than the sanbenito, marked not by the demons on their clothing but by the demons encircling their souls, waiting for the final moment when pain or starvation would relinquish their lives, they were herded into ghettos, ostracized, tortured, murdered.

The Jews of Europe weren't as fortunate as those of the Inquisition. There was no choice involved in order to survive - when your identity as a Jew was discovered, your life was pretty much over. European Jews during the time of the Holocaust were not permitted to convert to Christianity to save their lives, although a fortunate few were able to do so. A small population of the Jewish community pretended to be Christians - pretended to be something they were not, and lived the lives of liars rather than face what their mainstream community around them demanded: that everyone be the same - that everyone have the same beliefs, that everyone practice the same rituals and follow the same cultural expressions. There was no room for creativity, no room for being different, no room for those who thought differently, looked differently, or behaved differently.

A small minority survived. But the guilt that the survivors suffered remains even today. Some Jews were able to survive because they hid in attics, in cellars, in barns, caves, trees, wherever they could. Others hid their identities and lived in a similar fashion to the conversos - they pretended to be Christians, but continued to practice their faith in hiding: hiding their identities, hiding their religious practices, hiding from the authorities, and often hiding from other Jews.

"Can you imagine having to pretend every day of your life, to make up stories and excuses, to feel guilty about who you are just because someone else may feel uncomfortable because of you?"

Can you imagine living like this? Pretending to be someone you are not, not being able to practice the faith that is part of your very existence, hiding from the truth because the truth does not set you free, but takes you prisoner, to a prison where there is no release and no escape.

This evening, on this cold October night, another Jew stands before you who does not want to hide. He does not want to pretend to be someone he is not, he does not want to hide from who he really is because that would be an abandonment of his soul. He knows what it is like to hide from the truth, although he himself has never done it. He knows that there is no compromise when it comes to the truth. I am that Jew.

This is not the time of the Spanish Inquisition and this is not the time of the Holocaust, thank God. Today is National Coming Out Day, a day that happens every October, when gay and lesbian people are urged to come out of the closet and tell their parents, their friends, the people they work for, the people they love, who they are, why they are different, why they are the same, and why they never want to hide again.

I understand that nothing in the world could ever compare to the Inquisition or to the Holocaust. And perhaps I really don't have the right to say anything at all in the same breath with the Holocaust, because nothing in the world could ever compare to those terrible years.

Yet, having to live in a closet may be somewhat similar to living in an attic for those who feel trapped. There are so many today who must hide from the truth that they are different from their mainstream community. They are afraid for their jobs, afraid of the rejection they may feel from their families if they are found out, afraid that they will never be accepted. Some of them are here, with us in this sanctuary tonight.

My heart goes out to them, because they cannot be who they are. Because they cannot live in the communities they love because they are afraid they will never be accepted, because they are afraid their secret will be found out, because they are afraid they will never be loved.

Can you imagine living like this? Pretending to be someone you are not, not being able to be the person you really are, hiding from the truth because the truth does not set you free, but takes you prisoner, to a prison where there is no release and no escape. Can you imagine having to pretend every day of your life, to make up stories and excuses, to feel guilty about who you are just because someone else may feel uncomfortable because of you -- for no logical reason except for the fact that you are different, in a small kind of way - nothing earth-shattering or unusual - you get up every morning listening to the same radio station, living in the same neighborhood, driving the same streets to work, wondering where you'll go for lunch, what to cook for dinner, where to go on vacation, if you'll go to your parents for Thanksgiving or go to your in-laws? -- the same thoughts, the same dreams, the same goals and the same fears.

I am the lucky one. I don't need a National Coming Out Day. I live in a community that knows who I am, knows that I may be a little different, but loves me anyway. I can go to work every morning and not have to worry about my job because the people I work for don't care that I'm a gay man. They see me for me - for who I am and not for what I am. And I love all of you for it.

To those of you who may have some difficulty getting used to the idea that I am a little different, I promise that in time we will overcome our differences. And to those of you, Rabbi Perlmeter and Rabbi Landis, Cantor Rowland, the Temple Board, and the members of Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, who have opened the closet door for me, thank you for saying, Rabbi, you don't have to hide - we know who you are, and we welcome you to our community. Thank you. I promise I will never let you down as your rabbi and will always be there for you, as you are there for me.

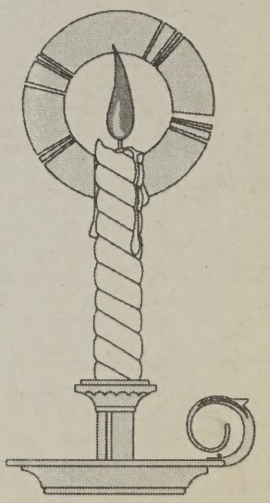
God bless you all.

A HOLIDAY REFLECTION

by Frank Whitworth

What does the holiday season between Thanksgiving and the end of the year mean to a person like me who identifies as an atheist? Don't I feel left out and isolated because of the two celebrations?

The truth is --NO! While I don't celebrate the birth of Jesus as the Son of God I do recognize and celebrate his birth, first as a great philosopher and teacher -- as a man of peace and love and, second, I celebrate his importance to so many of those who do believe in and depend on his divinity as part of their lives and spiritual well-being.



This particular period of the year has long attracted many various observances and celebrations from those we, as a nation whose largest religious force is Christian, are most familiar with, to the less familiar practices of Native Americans, Far Eastern and Pagan (Universal and Earth-centered) religions. Our Jewish friends also place great importance in religious holidays that fall in December.

I have come to identify this time of year as a time when we rekindle within us a spirit of love and respect for our friends, families and fellow travelers on this earth. It is a time when we are called to reaffirm our connection with the rest of humanity and to observe and celebrate those things that make us all alike and those things that make us different.

I recall the teachings of Jesus who directed that his disciples gather unto him all the children of the world. There were no limitations, no exceptions, no ifs, ands or buts. There was no statement that once gathered, they should be indoctrinated or changed before they were brought to him. He simply said -"gather unto me all the children."

This was a great statement of equality that placed all, no matter what their differences, on equal footing.

With that, I wis you the very best of the season and I send my love to al my brothers and sisters on this planet and a hope that we will in the coming year progress a little closer to the peace, love and respect so ably promoted by the Man from Galilee.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- that gays and lesbians around the world profess faith in a wide spectrum of religions; from Catholic to Baptist, Methodist to Jewish, Presbyterian to Buddhism, Native Spiritualism to Mormonism, Hinduism to the various pagan and earth-centered beliefs?

- that in many Native American traditions gay and lesbian people were often considered medicine people or were used as counselors to the tribal chief because it was believed that they possessed both the male and female spirit? The Zuni call these people Berdache.

- that the first major religious denomination to pass a non-discrimination policy toward gays and lesbians was the Unitarian Universalist Church in 1970? They were also the first to officially recognize and perform lesbian and gay unions in 1984.

- that the largest predominately lesbian and gay church in the world is the Cathedral of Hope MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) in Dallas, Texas. The congregation ranks in size in the top 1% of all churches in America. (in other words, it's a very big Church!) - Sources of Hope Publishing House, 1994

- that within the Catholic Church, gay and lesbian Catholics can attend Mass in the welcoming environment of "Dignity," a Catholic outreach for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered believers? Many "straight" Catholics also are members of Dignity and worship along side their GLBT neighbors and friends. The number for local Dignity is 635-5773.

- that some Jewish synagogues offer outreach services to their GLBT members? In Denver, there is a support group, Tikvat Shalom, which can be reached by calling (303) 331-2706.

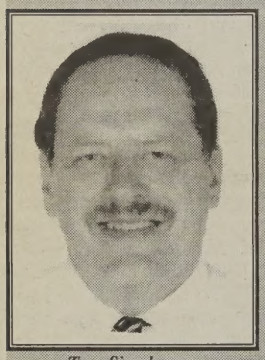
- and that the first gay religious organization of any kind to be officially recognized by a national body was Beth Chayim Chadashim Synagogue, receiving its charter from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations on July 19, 1974? The first openly gay rabbi was Allen Bennett, outed with his permission by the San Francisco Examiner in 1978.

- that the first openly gay ordained minister was William Johnson by the United Church of Christ in San Carlos, Calif., ordained on June 25, 1972? The first openly lesbian minister was ordained by the Episcopal Church as a priest on January 10, 1977.

- that Evangelicals Concerned (EC) is an organization that affirms lesbians and gays of both their sexuality and their relationships to Jesus Christ? EC is a nationwide task force and fellowship for Christian lesbians and gays, their family and friends. For more information call (602) 893-6952 (Western Regional office)

- that for members of the Church of Latter Day Saints there is a supportive association, "A New Direction," which ministers to gay and lesbian Mormons and their families? The association can be reached at (213) 874- 8424, Los Angeles, CA.

A "GIFT" TO THE COMMUNITY
by Tom Simpleman



Tom Simpleman

Gathered In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) is a newly formed outreach of Ground Zero. We are attempting to facilitate interaction within the faith communities of our city that allows for an expression for both similarities and differences in our perception of homosexuality. Creating a non-stereotypical environment in which we can view faith communities as representing a diversity of people, including homosexuals, is fundamental to this goal.

At this time of year, many of us find ourselves feeling spiritual in one sense or another. Many in the Gay, Lesbian , Bisexual and Transgendered (GLBT) community experience a feeling of solitude and calmness. Others feel alone and believe that we don't belong. We feel as though we have been eliminated from a community in which we want to be a part of - but the door has been closed. We are not welcome. We have been told that we are not in God's favor. Is it that God has eliminated us from His kingdom, or is it that some have interpreted the Bible in such a manner that it appears as though we are not included?

Because of this, members of the GLBT community often find it hard to relate to Christianity and turn to other beliefs. To many, it causes conflict within themselves. Some of us have found that it isn't God, the Bible or Christianity that have problems with members of th GLBT community, but interpretations of the Bible which cause the problems.

The Bible is a collection of writings which documents the history of Hebrews and Christians and their relationship with God. It was written in more than one language and represents cultures very different from the ones in which we live today. In an effort to understand the carious passages, one must take into account all of these factors. Different religions have been formed and major conflicts ensued over different interpretations of the same writings in the Bible. We can see that members of two Christian churches may say that the others aren't even Christian, based on these differences of interpretation and resulting theology.

An example of how interpretations change is the attitude of some churches regarding slavery. About 135 years ago, slavery existed in the United States. The Bible was used to justify this two-fold moral order of black and white. Whites were considered superior to blacks. Slavery was an institution ordained by God. This conflict was a catalyst to the formation of some major Christian denominations. These same denominations do not support slavery today. The questions we ask our selves is, "When did the Bible change?" It didn't -- the way the Bible is interpreted changed. Therefore is it the Bible that indicates that we are not in God's favor, or simply an interpretation of the Bible?

Members of the community -- consider this simple question. Think for a moment of the special talents members of GLBT community possess. Remember the great ones who demonstrated them -- such as Michelangelo,Walt Whitman, Greg Louganis, Eleanor Roosevelt, Audre Lourde, and Georgia O'Keefe (just to name a very few). We are ten percent of the population. When you see what we have produced, it represents more than that fraction.

Members of our community seem to have so many wonderful qualities and talents. Since these talents are given to us by God, if we were not in His favor, would He provide us these special talents?

Now, during this Christmas season, and throughout the rest of you life, know that God has provided us with special qualities to prove we are a part of His kingdom.

So, when sitting in your church of choice this sacred season, stop and look around you. See the person next to you, behind you, and know that there are lesbians and gay who share your faith, who have come into the same house of worship to be with their faith family this Christmas, who struggle deeply with the words of interpretation versus how the same Bible touches their hearts, and lives. This Christmas, walk a mile in their shoes, understand that love is a gift to be cherished and shared, and say a prayer for all who struggle with their faith.

This Christmas, set aside everyone else's interpretations and let your heart speak; give the gift of love, if only just for today.

Someone You Know, perhaps sitting next to at mid-night or morning service, needs your love and fellowship this Christmas.

Tom Simpleman is a lay minister with Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church and facilitator of the G.I.F.T program.

Greg Nockleby

What The Holidays Mean To Me As A Homosexual
by Greg Nockleby

Explaining the significance of the upcoming holidays is a hard task. I believe that we all celebrate the holidays similarly regardless of race, culture, sexuality or religion. However, everyone has their own individual ritual or interpretation for the holidays. I hope you will find some similarities to my interpretation, because it seems timeless.

It seems like the happiest season out of all the seasons
Time off from work, holiday pay or bonuses are a few reasons

Sledding, skiing and ice skating are fun
Holiday parties, winter parades and Nutcracker Ballets are too
Or simply, sipping hot chocolate on the snow in the sun
enjoying a walk through the Electric Lights at the zoo

Warm fireplaces, bright candles, a pine tree that smells sweet
Tales of Christmases long, long ago
Turkey, pumpkin pie, popcorn, candy -- what a treat
and maybe one or two feet of snow

Family, friends, lovers, dogs, cats -- even the fish
Carolling, mistletoeing, Christmas lighting or jinglebelling
Manger scenes, Santa Claus, brightly painted stars, a life long wish
packages, bows, stockings and definitely shopping

In close, I believe there are no limits in celebrating the birth of Christ or the winter holidays, whether if I am gay or straight. After reading my interpretation, I hope you find there is not much difference between us. Happy Holidays!

"God bless us, everyone!"
- Charles Dickens,
A Christmas Carol

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VOICES

"Why are white people so afraid of the homosexual? In Native American languages we don't even have a word for the homosexual. In fact, it is well known among us that the most spiritual people are often homosexuals and these people have often been counselors to our greatest chiefs."
-Jose Hobday

"The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all living beings, which are all part of one another and all involved in one another."
-Thomas Merton

"Any religion which professes to be concerned about the souls of men and and is not concerned about the social and economic conditions that can scar the soul, is a spirituality moribund religion only waiting for the day to be buried."
-Martin Luther King Jr.

"Blessed are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven! This is the way they persecuted the prophets before you."
-Matthew 5:11, 12

"For people to mock, scorn or condemn a person for a condition beyond their control is to mock, scorn or condemn the One who made them."
- Michael S. Piazza, 1994, Holy Homosexuals: The Truth About Being Gay or Lesbian and Christian.

Why should a heterosexual be threatened by a homosexual or vice versa? Vive la Difference! Let diversity and creativity flow within the parameters of moral responsibility and committed love that we have seen celebrated in the Song of Songs* and that truly reflect the moral laws the universe teaches us.

The homosexual has been a particular victim of scapegoating in Western Culture and in Western religion of late. A homosexual is a sexual minority. Studies now confirm that approximately 10 - 13 percent of any given culture will be homosexual, about one out of every ten of our children. Yet, homosexuals in our society are driven into a ghetto-like existence. (p. 207, The Coming of the Cosmic Christ)
-Matthew Fox, Dominican Theologian and author

*Song of Songs, 8:14:
Come! Be swift my lover!
Be like a gazelle or a wild young stag.
Come! Play on the mountains of myrrh!

WHAT IS UFMCC?

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Churches is a Christian denomination founded October 6, 1968 by Reverend Elder Troy Perry, a former Pentecostal minister who was asked to leave his denomination when he disclosed that he was gay.
The UFMCC extends its ministry to all people regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, or economic, ethnic and cultural background. Its members and leaders come from diverse Christian traditions - liberal and conservative, charismatic and evangelical. There are approximately 300 MCCs in 17 countries around the world, with a total membership of over 25, 000 people.

Pikes Peak MCC, under the direction of Pastor Nori J. Rost, is a Christ-centered fellowship which moves in the mainstream of Christianity in its worship of God. PPMCC began in a garage in the summer of 1979. Their first pastor was Rev. Joyce Setala. Their fellowship grew quickly and they soon grew out of their humble home, so they moved into into the All Souls Unitarian Church at 730 N. Tejon where they still meet. They eagerly look forward to the day when they will be abe to move into a building of their own. Their church and denomination were founded with the primary - but not exclusive - outreach to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community. They are not a "gay" church, but rather a Christian church in which all persons from all backgrounds and walks of life are welcome. Please call 634-3771 for more information.

PFLAG

The Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG is a non-profit, community-based organization not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, educational, counseling, business or political group.

PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian and bisexual persons, their family and friends, through support to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal rights. **Meets 2nd Wed of each month, 6:30pm social, 7:00pm meeting time. Call 575-8658 for information.**

Someone You Know is underwritten in part by
Coors Brewing Company

If you or your business is interested in underwriting this insert, please call Ground Zero at 635-6086

MISSION STATEMENT

Dedicated to securing and maintaining basic civil rights for lesbian. gay, bisexual and transgendered citizens; and to unifying their participation in the community at large through the means of education, coalition, and visibility.

SUSTAINING MEMBER–SPONSORS

Many individuals donated to the fund to support *Someone You Know*. Some chose to be ongoing sponsors on a monthly basis. They are:
D. Miller
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FOUNDATION SUPPORT

The Needmor Fund is a Colorado-based foundation that has as its primary goal the empowerment of those individuals whose basic rights to justice and opportunity are systematically ignored or denied through the funding of grassroots, community-based organizations.

The Chinook Fund is a publicly supported alternative foundation established to provide grants and technical assistance to Colorado grassroots organizations working for progressive social change

The Colin Higgins Fund, advised by the Tides Foundation, funds organizations seeking to effect progressive social change.

The Funding Exchange is a partnership of activists and donors who came together in 1970 to find new ways to support social movements. They coined the phrase "change, not charity" because they believe in the importance of tackling the root causes of poverty and injustice. Allies for Justice is one of their member groups.

The Gill Foundation is a Colorado-based private foundation funding gay, lesbian and bisexual organizations, AIDS organizations, social justice/ human rights advocacy organizations and activities in The Arts that educate about HIV/AIDS, gays, lesbians and bisexuals, and relationships between disenfranchised peoples.

Due to the overwhelming response from the community of Colorado Springs, we plan to continue the *Someone You Know* inserts for 1997. We have received funding for about half of the $17,000 needed. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW! You can help us continue to build bridges of understanding while refuting the myths, lies and stereotypes, by becoming a supporter of this important outreach!!

YES! I want SYK to continue!! Count Me In!!

I want to be a part of Ground Zero's project to counter the myths, lies and stereotypes by printing stories about real gays and lesbians and issues in the four page Someone You Know inserted in The Independent monthly. I am enclosing:

❒ **A One Time Donation of $_____, or**

❒ **I want to be a Sustaining supporter in the amount of $_____ per month.**
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